

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~[[a]]an Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) peptide~~ immunochemically reactive with ~~an antibody~~antibodies to the ~~Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)~~EBV VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 proteins, comprising an epitope of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BDRF1, respectively, and wherein said antibody to VCA-p18 is antibodies are antibodies having the same reactivity with VCA-p18 as antibodies produced by the hybridoma hybridomas deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures under deposit number numbers 93020413 or 93020412 or antibodies having the same reactivity with VCA-p40 as antibodies produced and said antibody to VCA-p40 is produced by the hybridoma deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures under deposit number 93020414, and wherein the reaction of the EBV peptide and the antibody to VCA-p18 in an ELISA results in an optical density reading greater than 0.5 at 450nm and the reaction of the EBV peptide and the antibody to VCA-p40 in an ELISA results in an optical density reading greater than 1.0 at 450nm.

7. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.~~

8. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 ~~or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.~~

9. (Currently amended) A vector ~~molecule~~ comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.

10-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently amended) A vector ~~molecule~~ comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.

27. (Currently amended) A vector ~~molecule~~ comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.

28-31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising ~~the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes 36~~ contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 which encode 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein and wherein said 12 contiguous amino acids comprise an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with ~~an antibody~~antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

33. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising ~~the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes 36~~ contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:3 which encode 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein and wherein said 12 contiguous amino acids comprise an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with ~~an antibody~~antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.

34. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6 or a combination of both, wherein said amino acid

sequence is immunochemically reactive with an antibodyantibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

35. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence consisting of a subsequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with an antibody to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

36. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence consisting of a subsequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with an antibody to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.